5 **What is claimed is:**

1. A system for optimized routing of print jobs comprising:

queuing means adapted for queuing print job data;

means adapted for selectively communicating the print job data to at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices so as to generate a printout therefrom;

10 terminal means adapted for receiving status data from at least one of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one associated printer device relative to dominant print job requests;

test means adapted for testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

15 the terminal means including means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device to a secondary associated printer device in accordance with an output of the test means.

2. The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 1 wherein the test criteria
20 includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

3. The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest
25 commitment level.

4. The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 wherein the print job data is automatically selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device without intervention from an associated user.

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5. The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 further comprising means adapted for storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

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6.   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 wherein the means for selectively redirecting the print job data includes:

means adapted for prompting an associated user for permission to redirect the print job data from the primary designated associated printer device to the secondary associated printer device;

means adapted for receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for permission to redirect the print job data; and

means adapted for routing the print job data in accordance with the user selection data.

7.   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 6 wherein the means for selectively redirecting the print job data the further comprises means adapted for displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

8.   The system for optimized routing print jobs of claim 6 wherein the means for redirecting the print job data further comprises:

means adapted to receive user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminating means adapted to terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

9.   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 6 wherein the means adapted for prompting an associated user is a graphical user interface.

10.   A method for optimized routing of print jobs comprising the steps of:

queuing print job data;

selectively communicating the print job data to at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices so as to generate a printout therefrom;

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receiving status data from at least one of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one associated printer device relative to dominant print job requests;

testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device to a secondary associated printer device in accordance with an output of the test means.

11.   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 10 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

12.   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest commitment level.

13.   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the print job data is automatically selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device without intervention from an associated user.

14.   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 further comprising the step of storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

15.   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data includes the steps:

prompting an associated user for permission to redirect the print job data from the primary designated associated printer device to the secondary associated printer device;

receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for permission to redirect the print job data; and

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routing the print job data in accordance with the user selection data.

16. The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 15 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the step of displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

17. The method for optimized routing print jobs of claim 15 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the steps of:

receiving user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

18. The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 15 wherein prompting an associated user is performed via a graphical user interface.

19. A computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs comprising:

queuing means adapted for queuing print job data;

means adapted for selectively communicating the print job data to at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices so as to generate a printout therefrom;

terminal means adapted for receiving status data from at least one of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one associated printer device relative to dominant print job requests;

test means adapted for testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

the terminal means including means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device to a secondary associated printer device in accordance with an output of the test means.

20.   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 19 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

21.   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 20 wherein the print job data is automatically selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device without intervention from an associated user.

22.   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 20 further comprising means adapted for storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

23.   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 20 wherein the means for selectively redirecting the print job data includes:
            means adapted for prompting an associated user for permission to redirect the print job data from the primary designated associated printer device to the secondary associated printer device;
            means adapted for receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for permission to redirect the print job data; and
            means adapted for routing the print job data in accordance with the user selection data.

24.   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing print jobs of claim 23 wherein the means for redirecting the print job data further comprises:
            means adapted to receive user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and
            terminating means adapted to terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

25.   A computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs comprising the steps of:

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queuing print job data;

selectively communicating the print job data to at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices so as to generate a printout therefrom;

receiving status data from at least one of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one associated printer device relative to dominant print job requests;

testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device to a secondary associated printer device in accordance with an output of the test means.

26. The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 25 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

27. The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 26 wherein the print job data is automatically selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device without intervention from an associated user.

28. The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 26 further comprising the step of storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

29. The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 26 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data includes the steps:

prompting an associated user for permission to redirect the print job data from the primary designated associated printer device to the secondary associated printer device;

receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for permission to redirect the print job data; and

routing the print job data in accordance with the user selection data.

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30. The computer-implemented method for optimized routing print jobs of claim 29 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the steps of:

receiving user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

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terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.